

The Henry W. Wade House  
554 South Livingston Avenue  
Livingston, Essex County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Henry W. Wade House  
554 South Livingston Avenue  
Livingston, Essex County, New Jersey

Owner: Frank W. Meeker (E. A. Tschupp, occupant)

Date of Erection: About 1770-5

Architect:

Builder: Henry Wells Wade (1748-1825)

Present Condition: Excellent

Number of Stories: One and one-half, with cellar

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone  
masonry

Exterior walls - timber  
frame, clapboards

Interior walls - lath and  
plaster on studding

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - modern asphalt  
shingles (dormers not  
original)

#### Historical Data:

The will of Henry W. Wade of the Township of Livingston,\*Essex County, New Jersey, dated 16 February 1825; proved 7 March 1825; devises to his wife Margaret the use of the "House and two lots on which it stands", to the fence back of the meadows to Charles Jennings' line, also the use of the land "before the door to Canoe Brook, from the deep hole

\*Erected 1813 from Springfield and Caldwell Townships.

to the bridge near Richard Barnwell" and after her decease the same is devised to daughters Nancy and Dorcas. (Essex County Will Bk. D, p. 173)

By a Deed of 18 April 1836, accordingly, Ann and Dorcas Wade of the Township of Livingston, Essex County, New Jersey, convey to Noah W. Dean of Township of Newark, same county, for \$2000, the 49 $\frac{1}{4}$  acre tract beginning at northeast corner of Margaret Littell's lot, on north side of Canoe Brook; thence (1) north 25°, west 1.8 to middle of road from Newark to Hanover, (2) along said road north 70° 50', west 2.78 to intersection of said road near the school house, (3) along the road to Enoch Edwards, north 26° 50', west 9.65 to corner of Charles Jennings' lot late deceased, (4) along line of said lot, north 64°, west 9.3 to corner of lot belonging to wife of Daniel Dean, (5) along line of said lot, south 19° 30', west 1.66, (6) along said line south 28° 59', west 15.25 to middle of road from Samuel Burnett's to Northfield Meeting House, (7) along said road, south 57° 59', east 7.9 to corner of Abijah Meeker's land, (8) along said road, south 46° 45', east 1.54, (9) south 3° 30', east 3.20 to corner of the 500 acre lot of Anthony Dey, Esquire, of New York City, (10) along said road to Moses I. Earl's, south 25° 30', east 12 chains to the range of the fence of Margaret Littell's northwest corner, (11) north 68°, east 1.88 to the "deep hole" on west side of Canoe Brook, (12) up said brook on the north side to place of beginning. Recorded in Essex Deed Book X-4, p. 331.

By Deed of 24 June 1841, Nehemiah R. Morse, Administrator of the estate of John S. F. Randolph, obtained possession by foreclosure proceedings on mortgage and interest, amounting to \$1078.21, given by Noah W. Dean abovesaid, 49 $\frac{1}{4}$  acres. (Book S-5, p. 419)

By Deed of 24 March 1842, Nehemiah R. Morse, administrator of the estate of John S. F. Randolph, deceased, conveyed to John W. Burnett of New York City, the same property, for \$1100. (Book S-5, p. 426)

By Deed of 2 June 1845, John W. Burnett Jr. of Newbern, N. C., conveyed to Theodore I. Burnett of Mechanicsburg, Pa., and Lewis W. Burnett of Philadelphia, for \$550, an undivided half of this property, "with all and singular the houses," etc. (Book M-6, p. 196)

By Deed of 22 May 1850, Theodore I. Burnett of Mechanicsburg, Pa., conveyed to John W. Burnett Sr. and wife, Rachel of Livingston Township, Essex County, New Jersey, for \$381.25, "part of the same premises" above conveyed, acreage not stated. (Book U-9-220, p. 204)

By Deed of 9 May 1853, the Commissioners appointed to divide the real estate of Daniel B. Burnett, Michael M. Burnett, and S. Charlez Burnett, all of Stroudsburg, Pa., conveyed to the highest bidder, Daniel B. Burnett, the undivided tract, described same as in (2) above, for \$1000. (Book U-9-220, p. 206)

By Deed of 20 July 1860, Daniel B. Burnett and wife, Eliza, by Sheriff, conveyed to Job Haines who had foreclosed the mortgage, the same property reciting (1) and (2) with descriptions same as in (2), no acreage or house mentioned. (Book I-11, p. 226)

By Deed of 1 July 1861, Job Haines and wife, Phebe Ann, of Newark Township, conveyed to William Hind of Livingston Township, both in Essex County, the same property abovesaid. (Book I-11, p. 486)

By Deed of 15 September 1866, William Hind and wife, Martha, of Livingston Township,

conveyed to John J. Farley, of Township of South Orange, both in Essex County, for \$3000, the same property abovesaid. (Book E-13, p. 52)

By Deed of 26 January 1910, Amelia Farley, widow of John J. Farley, deceased, of Livingston Township, Essex County, conveyed to George P. F. Millar of the Borough of North Arlington, Bergen County, the same property abovesaid, excepting "so much as may have been acquired by the City of East Orange" and "subject to the right of the said Amelia Farley to remain in possession and occupation of the dwelling house upon the said premises free of all rent until April 1910". (Book P-46, p. 280)

By Deed of 2 December 1916, George P. F. Millar and wife, May V., of Livingston Township, conveyed to John J. Radel of East Orange, twenty acres, being a portion of the above tract, with the house, describing it as bounded southeast by the road called Myrtle Avenue, southwest by the road to West Livingston. (Book T-58, p. 299)

By Deed of 13 May 1918, John J. Radel of South Orange, conveyed to William G. Huguley of Livingston Township, the same twenty acre tract. (Book G-60, p. 187)

By Deed of 1 March 1920, William G. Huguley of Livingston Township, conveyed to George P. Harrison of Newark, the same property. (Book B-63, p. 434)

By Deed of 31 December 1920, George P. Harrison of Livingston Township, conveyed the same to H. St. John Webb of Montclair, N. J. (Book K-64, p. 509)

By Deed of 6 March 1924, the Montclair Essex Trust Company, executors of the Will of Herbert St. John Webb of Montclair, deceased, conveyed the same twenty acres, with a lot of 1.8

acres adjacent, to Matthew Y. Collins of Livingston. (Book A-70, p. 213)

By Deed of 3 August 1926, Matthew Y. Collins of Livingston, conveyed to Frank W. Meeker of Bernardsville, New Jersey, a small section of the tract, describing this as having 150 feet frontage on a new street to be known as Northfield Terrace and ninety feet on Northfield Avenue. (Book A-75, p. 110), being that on which stands the house here considered. It is occupied in 1939 by E. A. Tschupp and family, as tenants.

#### Bibliography:

A search of title in Essex County  
Land and Probate records by Cornelius  
Mc Phillips, H.A.B.S. abstractor

#### Architectural Analysis:

This one story and garret clapboard on timber frame, gable roofed, homestead, 26 feet 7 inches deep by 37 feet front, with masonry foundation providing a cellar of only 6 feet floor to floor, has a leanto addition against the northeast end which extends the length of the house by 12 feet. The main house appears to be of the period 1770-5.

The floor plan of six rooms, the central stairhall in the main house extends from front to rear entrances (the latter of which is since enclosed by a 10 x 13 feet shed), but serves only the front room on either side by passage doors. Access to each of the two posterior rooms is provided by a door from the front room and by a direct entrance door in the rear elevation. Each of the two rooms in the leanto open off the front and rear rooms adjacent respectively, having a communicating

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door in their common partition and a direct entrance door in the front.

The garret, originally one great loft, as was common practice of the Dutch farmhouses in the adjacent Passaic Valley, has since been divided by studding and wall board into four rooms and a wide central stairhall. Likewise, dormer windows have accordingly been inserted.

The balanced design of the southeast front, two windows on each side of the entrance stoep, naively not on exact centers, attains a certain dignity. The "stoep" itself, composed of two turned columns of wood, carrying a gable roof pitched unusually steep at some 45°, is particularly appropriate, and the windows, containing twelve lights in the upper sash and eight in the lower provide ample fenestration. The wood shutters which probably closed these windows are now lacking. The door itself is not original, as is clearly evident from its thickness, being more than that allowed by the stop molding.

Interior finishing woodwork is typical of that in this locality, as executed in the third quarter of the eighteenth century. The stairway of one eight foot flight from hall to garret is not closed off by a door at the head in the usual manner; the open well is surrounded by a handrail on three sides instead. The details thereof are severely plain, the rounded handrail with cove run on its sides caps the square spindles, and the latter are set into a closed string. Passage doors are composed of rails and stiles to six panels which are sunk on one side without moldings and flush on the other with beaded edge, in the fashion later than that of the door frame and trim, which leads to the conclusion that these doors are substitutes for the original ones which were very probably of mere batten construction. The trim mentioned is less than three inches wide, and composed of narrow fascia between cyma recta molded surround and a beaded inner edge. A slightly varied detail of this forms the inside trim of the windows. Incidentally, the two "belly windows" under the rear eaves are obviously of later insertion. Likewise,

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the windows in the leanto being of scale larger than those in the main house, indicates subsequent erection for that annex. The only remaining mantel, one on a corner fireplace in the north parlor, exhibits a plain fascia board surround, having an ovolo back molding, over which is a wide freize treated with two symmetrical panels, and a cyma bed molding to the beaded edge shelf.

Henry Wells Wade, the first recorded owner for this house, was born 6 June 1748, son of Jonathan and Dorothy (Wells) Wade of Elizabethtown, and was one of five brothers to settle at Canoe Brook, in then Springfield Township (now Livingston), where this house was built about 1770. He died 24 Feb. 1825 in this house in Livingston Township as indicated in his will cited above, having married 23 Sept. 1773 Margaret Ward, born 24 Jan. 1755, who died 29 May 1832. Their children were Ruth, married Stephen Edwards; Sarah, married Uzal Harrison; Lydia married Eliphalet Frazee; Mary, married Daniel Dean; Catherine, married Nathan Williams; Wells Wade, the only son, was of Mentz Township, Cayuga County, N.Y., in 1825; Margaret married Luther Littell; Betsey, married Samuel Squier; Electa, married Samuel Dean and Barner C. Denman; Abigail, married Samuel Squier as 2nd wife and \_\_\_\_\_ Dodd; Nancy born 14 July 1794, died 5 Aug. 1864 unmarried; Phebe, married Hiram Ambler; and Dorcas born 3 Sept. 1797, died 24 Oct. 1837 unmarried,\* of whom the spinster daughters Nancy and Dorcas inherited the homestead as stated above.

Henry Wells Wade, abovesaid, was probably the Henry Wade, private in Capt. Wm. Gifford's Company in 3rd Battalion, 2nd Establishment of New Jersey Continental Line, in the Revolutionary War. He also served in the campaign against the Indians of the Six Nations in Western Pennsylvania in 1779, and later as Corporal in Capt. Jonathan Forman's Company, 3rd Regiment, N.J. Continental Line in the Virginia campaign of 1781.



He was in the battle of Springfield, N. J., 23 June 1780, was bayoneted in a leg, was present at the seige of Yorktown, Va., and the surrender of Lord Cornwallis 19 Oct. 1781. The body of Mrs. James Caldwell was taken to Henry Wade's house on 8 June 1780 after her murder by a Tory, as one of the few houses standing in Connecticut Farms.\*

\*Charles S. Wade: The Wade Genealogy, pp. 249 and 270

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